

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

NOVEMBER 5, 2008

In 2005 the Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency's ("AVEK") staff recommended to its Board of Directors to switch the disinfection of treated water at its treatment plants from chlorine to chloramines. This action was a result of a new drinking water standard imposed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the State of California. Given the new standard, chlorine is no longer a viable method of disinfection.

The use of chloramines for disinfection of water has been in use throughout the United States. While utilized by other water agencies in California, chloramine treatment has never been used in the Antelope Valley. For example, the Littlerock Irrigation District, Palmdale Water District, Quartz Hill Water Company, and the Rosamond Community Standards District have always utilized alternatives to chloramines.

In its deliberations, AVEK consulted with its larger customers, which includes the Los Angeles County Waterworks District 40. Although County staff supported the decision to convert to chloramine disinfection, staff did not notify customers in advance, nor did the District conduct any public outreach.

Many residents in Antelope Valley have expressed concerns about chloramine treatment. These include concerns about potential allergic reactions, harmful affects to pets, degradation of infrastructure, and impacts upon residential septic systems. These issues should be considered before chloramine treatment is implemented. Waterworks District 40 staff should hold community meetings throughout Antelope Valley to solicit input, answer questions, and address the public's concerns about chloramine disinfection.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

BURKE _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Acting Director of Public Works to immediately:

- Postpone the implementation of chloramine treatment by Waterworks District 40 for a minimum of 120 days;
- Coordinate with AVEK's staff on this action;
- Conduct a public outreach effort that includes hosting community meetings throughout the Antelope Valley, providing information about chloramines to the media, and enclosing information about chloramines in water service bills to District customers; and
- Report back to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation within 120 days.

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